



**SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER.**

In writing the other day on the proposed re-construction of our Legislative Council, I suggested that, as it is understood the community at the present time only possesses two representatives, there were no sufficient reasons why His Excellency, the Governor should not at once bring up the complement to its full strength by appointing two new members to take the places of those who have either resigned or are absent on leave, without waiting for the approval and sanction of the Secretary of State for the additional, unofficial, representatives recommended by Sir George Bowen. As the fairness of our suggestion can scarcely fail to commend its consideration, I trust it will meet a favorable result.

few general observations on the claims of probable candidates for one of these appointments may not be deemed ill timed or out of place.

Since Governor HENNESSY honored Mr. No CHOY by appointing him to a seat at the Council Board as a representative of Chinese interests, public feeling has changed wonderfully in regard to what was at the time considered an altogether unnecessary and extremely ill advised measure. Amongst a certain bigoted and narrow minded class the introduction of the Chinese element as an important factor in the machine of local government, created one of those political typhoons in a tea cup, so frequently associated with colonial autocracies, when the vested interests, imaginary rights or assumed privileges of these self constituted dictators are supposed to be threatened or in any way imperilled by new measures of reform. The Chinese in Hongkong were regarded by the old Tory autocrats as useful, nay as necessary adjuncts to the ordinary commercial business of the port; their influence in all matters connected with trade could not be gainsaid; their material interests, as large property holders, in the welfare of the colony were not disputed; it could not be denied that a vast proportion of the annual revenue was contributed by Chinese; and yet in the face of all this, these peaceable and well disposed subjects of Her Majesty were to be denied the rights, inherent in all free citizens in every civilised nation on the face of the globe, of having a voice in the management of their own affairs, and of being officially treated on an equality with the taxpayers of other nationalities. And so for a time Governor HENNESSY's enlightened action in rudely shaking to the foundations the ridiculous prejudices which had for so long unjustly deprived the Chinese of their privileges, was understood to be unpopular both in the official and unofficial circles in the Colony, and many direful consequences were foretold by short sighted croakers and obsequious toadies of the "wise men from the East" as the certain outcome of what was rather eccentrically styled "revolutionary class legislation." Of course all these dismal forebodings resulted in nothing; things generally soon found their true level, and happily the good sense of the Colony has long since recognised not only that the Chinese are entitled to be directly represented in our local parliament, but that a native unofficial member in the Council is an advantage in many ways to the foreign as well as the native sections of the community. As Sir GEORGE BOWEN points out, representatives of the native communities have for many years held seats in the legislatures of British India, Ceylon, New Zealand and the Straits Settlements; and the opinion of the British Government on the subject and also of the Governor may be gathered from His Excellency's emphatic observation that "one of the six unofficial members will of course be chosen from among our Chinese fellow subjects." We are inclined to think that, considering their large interests in the Colony, the Chinese are fairly entitled to more than one direct representative in the Legislative Council; however, as they are perfectly satisfied with the arrangements of the Government that question need not be discussed.

Mr. No CHOY has, it is rumoured, taken permanent service under the astute LI HUNG CHANG, so we may reasonably assume that his career as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council has come to a close. The question now to be considered is—who is the fittest amongst our Chinese citizens to take the seat vacated by the learned barrister? We think we are in a position to settle that question to the satisfaction both of His Excellency the Governor and the Chinese community. The Chinese gentlemen in Hongkong who have any real claims to the honourable position of member of the Legislative Council are Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. Wong Shing, Mr. LUNG ON, Mr. Wai Yui, Mr. LEE TUCK CHONG, and Mr. Ho AXI. To take these candidates in the order named, Dr. Ho Kai is no doubt fitted by education and natural abilities to take a foremost place in the ranks of his countrymen. This clever young barrister, however, has only been a very short time in Hongkong, so that his practical experience of Chinese matters generally can only be of a superficial character. Besides, although Dr. Ho Kai is deservedly respected by all classes in the Colony, he has no commercial status, and could therefore hardly expect to carry the confidence of what is essentially a mercantile constituency. Mr. No CHOY's profession was certainly nothing in his favor for the position he held, and so, apart from the other drawbacks we have already alluded to, we are inclined to consider that the fact of Dr. Ho Kai being a barrister-at-law is decidedly no recommendation for a Chinese member of Council. If only amiability and a high character for uprightness were required, Mr. Wong Shing would make an admirable legislator; but as this gentleman has passed into the serene, yellow leaf, and is of a retiring disposition, takes no active part in the commerce of the colony, and loves a quiet life, besides having taken no pains to qualify himself for such an onerous position as representative of Chinese interests, his claims need scarcely be seriously considered. There are few more popular men in the Colony than Mr. LUNG ON, familiarly known amongst his countrymen as the "joss-man."—This gentleman is frequently resorted to by the mercantile community for advice and assistance in the settlement of disputes arising in the ordinary course of business, and so much confidence is reposed in his integrity and judgment that many cases have been kept out of the law courts, and a goodly number of dollars out of the pockets of the lawyers by the kindly counsel of this exemplary citizen. Mr. LUNG ON enjoys deserved popularity among all classes, and if selected as the Chinese member of the Legislative Council would doubtless do honor to the

appointment. However, Mr. LUNG ON's intimate business relations with the Chinese Government, his position as comprador to Messrs. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., and his somewhat irresolute character are drawbacks which must not be overlooked. Our Chinese Justice of the Peace, Mr. Wai Yui, although only a very young man, has the advantage of a European education, and in addition to possessing a fund of practical common sense in dealing with the ordinary business of life, has great wealth and local influence to recommend him, were there not two insuperable obstacles standing in the way. The Chinese member of Council must be a thoroughly independent man, occupying an independent position. Mr. Wai Yui is comprador to the Chartered Mercantile Bank, and this undoubtedly is fatal to his prospects; besides the Chinese community do not wish the representative of their interests in the Legislative Council to be merely the mouthpiece of Mr. James Russell and Dr. Stewart. In Chinese circles Mr. LEE TUCK CHONG is known as a man of remarkable ability, who has figured prominently as a leader of Chinese enterprise; but his knowledge of the English language is so imperfect that he has at present no pretensions to the position with which his name has of late been occasionally identified. The last name on the list is that of Mr. Ho AXI, and of all the candidates for Mr. No CHOY's seat at the Council, he is in every way the most suitable.

Mr. Ho AXI is not merely the leader of Chinese enterprise in this Colony; he is a giant amongst men, talented, energetic, practical, experienced, resolute and independent; in every way capable of holding his own with the cleverest men in the East. His liberal views have, principally owing to the indomitable character of the advocate, met with extensive support amongst his countrymen, while his enlightened projects for their general improvement have gained almost universal admiration. It is rather surprising that Mr. Ho AXI's claims to the Chinese seat in the Legislative Council as a thoroughly representative leader of his countrymen have not hitherto been recognised; however, as this gentleman is likely to play a most prominent part in the opening out of Southern China to foreign trade and in the introduction of foreign improvements into a country which has hitherto been practically a sealed book to the outer world, we venture to think that the following particulars of the past career of this remarkable man may not be without interest.

Mr. Ho AXI was born in 1838 and is consequently in his forty fifth year. He entered the old Anglo-Chinese College under Drs. LODEX and CHALKERS and there laid the foundation of a substantial education. In 1857 when he was nineteen years of age he joined the British Navy as interpreter on board H.M.S. *Narvik* and was present in that capacity at the capture of the Bogue Forts. His naval career was a short one, as we find that in November 1858, he left China for Melbourne, where in 1867 he was the pioneer of Chinese emigration from that city to Dunedin, N. Z. Returning to Hongkong in 1869, Mr. Ho AXI became a member of the Imperial Maritime Customs at Canton a month after his arrival but resigned his appointment after six months service. In 1870 he entered the Registrar General's Office, and after two years in that department of the government service (during which time as interpreter he accompanied the Duke of Edinburgh to Canton) resigned in order to accept an important appointment under the Hoppo, which he retained until 1876. In May the following year he founded the On Tai Marine Insurance Company, and three months later the Sheong On Fire Insurance Company sprang into life through his energy. Mr. Ho AXI is manager and chief promoter of the Canton-Kowloon Wa Hop Telegraph Co.; projector of the new Water Scheme in Canton and also of an extensive Mining Company which is now in course of formation under influential auspices. In 1882 the subject of this brief sketch was elected President of the Board of Management of the Tung Wa Hospital, the highest Chinese position in the Colony, and it is noteworthy that at the election of the Chinese Committee Mr. Ho AXI was honored with the largest number of votes. With a thorough knowledge of English, and possessing the entire confidence of the Chinese community, Mr. Ho AXI's claims to be named the Chinese member of the Legislative Council will be difficult to overlook. We presume His Excellency the Governor in selecting the Chinese member will be influenced to a considerable extent by the desires of the Chinese community. If so Mr. Ho AXI is certain to be named, and should popular election be tried as an experiment he would be returned by an overwhelming majority.

On the 21st of March, 1882, we took the liberty of briefly reviewing in these columns the prospectus issued by Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. for the formation of the Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited, and earned for ourselves a considerable amount of ill will by expressing grave doubts as to the enterprise proving such a remunerative concern as the promoters so confidently predicted. At various times since the Company became an established institution, and even when results and prospects of a most brilliant character were generally understood to have been obtained from the working operations, and the shares were quoted at a high rate of premium, we have considered it our duty to point out that there was evidently some grave misapprehension in this Colony as to the actual state of affairs. From information of a most reliable nature, we were in a position to state that the Luzon Sugar Refinery, on its present basis, was something very like a complete failure; that, in fact, the "predictions" we indulged in at the commencement had been

practically fulfilled. Of course our statements were not generally credited; Luzon shares were quoted at a premium, and although they fluctuated in value in a manner strongly suggestive of speculative manipulation, nothing reliable seemed to be known of the Company's progress or money earning capacity, and public confidence could hardly be said to have been shaken to any appreciable extent. The report of the General Agents, presented at the meeting of shareholders held a few weeks ago, was the first rude awakening the holders of Luzon scrip received, and the announcement then made that it had been considered desirable to secure the services of an expert to proceed to Manila for the purpose of carefully examining the Company's business and specially reporting thereon, was accepted as a safe indication that prospects were the reverse of rosy. The almost immediate result of the facts brought out at the general meeting was a depreciation in the market value of the stock to the extent of between thirty and forty per cent., and as a matter of course, those speculators who had been "stuck" with the depreciated shares, instead of blaming their own folly and short sightedness commenced to impute motives to the General Agents. For the last three weeks Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. have been subjected to a steady torrent of coarse and virulent abuse from sections of every class of share speculators; they have been blamed for throwing dust in the eyes of the shareholders, censured for allowing the stock to remain so long in a false position, and threatened with direful consequences if they should decline to come forward to the relief of the oppressed plungers by redeeming the scrip at par. Nothing could be more foolish, more unjust than this. So far as we can see, Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. have incurred no responsibility whatever in regard to retrieving the desperate fortunes of any share speculators. The public embarked in the enterprise with their eyes wide open, doubtless anticipating to reap a rare harvest, but at the same time prepared to bear the risks necessarily associated with all such undertakings. Granting that the views of the General Agents have been proved all wrong; and admitting that their sanguine anticipations have not been realised, we think it will be conceded that up to the present time they have done their best for the interests entrusted to their keeping, and have faithfully, according to their lights, carried out the work they undertook to perform. The responsibilities of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. extend thus far—and not one inch further. Whatever else they may choose to do for the Luzon Sugar Refining Company, must therefore be regarded as a generous concession made in the interests of the shareholders.

Early last month Mr. HENRY DICKIN, the manager of the China Sugar Refining Co., went over to Manila at the request of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. to specially report on the Luzon Refinery, and a meeting of the shareholders in the last named concern was held in the offices of the General Agents on Wednesday morning to consider the prepared result of Mr. DICKIN's practical investigations. As a full report of the proceedings at this "gathering of the clans" has already been published, and doubtless fully considered and digested by those most interested, we need only at present refer to a few salient features. In the first place, we think that the Chairman (Mr. F. BULKLEY JOHNSON) was ill advised in objecting to Mr. DICKIN's report being published in the newspapers, and can only marvel that not a single shareholder present had the courage of his opinions sufficiently to protest against a step which can scarcely fail to prove prejudicial to the Company's interests. Says Mr. JOHNSON:—"In reading Mr. DICKIN's report to the meeting I wish to say that I do not propose that that report shall be published in the newspapers, and I hope the shareholders will support me in this. I consider it very inadvisable that we should publish a statement regarding the details of the Company's business which may be injurious to it in the future, but I wish to say that the report will be at the office of the General Agents and will be open to the perusal of every shareholder who wishes it." In what manner the publication of an independent report, the practical character and impartiality of which are beyond question, would be likely to injure the Company's business is altogether beyond our comprehension. Surely the general agents are not afraid of the true state of affairs becoming public property! This strange objection to publicity would appear to strengthen this view. However, as the report was compiled at the special desire of the general agents and consulting committee, it was almost imperative that it should be published through the ordinary channels, no matter how unfavorable its tenor might be. The refusal can only be construed into a sign of weakness, and will most probably defeat the end evidently aimed at by Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON.

Without going into detail, Mr. DICKIN's report must be accepted as highly unfavorable to the prospects of the Luzon Sugar Refinery, so long as that establishment is conducted on its original basis. During the months of January and February the business has resulted in a dead loss of \$5,000, and Mr. DICKIN has further stated "that at the cost of raw sugar as represented to him, and as it appeared to him to be from the produce of the house was saleable while he was there, the house could not be worked at a profit." Although matters are reported to have improved slightly during the past few weeks, under all circumstances it will be the safest plan to accept the result of Mr. DICKIN's investigations as the basis for future calculations. Therefore, the Luzon Refinery, having, as at present worked, been proved to be a complete failure, the important question is, what alterations, additions or improvements are requisite to make the business a

remunerative one? Mr. DICKIN, it appears, is in favor of the adoption of a system of charcoal refining, and recommends that the Company should immediately set up appliances capable of turning out from eight to ten thousand piculs of refined sugar per month. Admitting that this can only be regarded in the light of an experiment, there certainly appear to be good grounds for believing that refined sugar would find a ready market in Manila, and that the innovation recommended would greatly enhance the Company's prospects. In any case something definite must be done, and as this latest proposal can be carried out, thanks to the liberality of the General Agents, without the shareholders being called upon for a single dollar, its adoption would appear a wise measure.

In the course of other observations Mr. JOHNSON said:—"It is the opinion of the General Agents that a system of charcoal refining, such as that proposed by Mr. DICKIN, should be set up without any delay, but we have to face the question of cost. To erect a system of charcoal refining, I need not say, involves a serious outlay. The General Agents would be prepared to advance the necessary sum on very easy terms to the shareholders for the purpose of enabling this work to be carried out; and I think that is the utmost that can be expected of them. We are not responsible for the calamities of last year or for the change in trade which has defeated all our calculations. But there is another consideration that has been presented to our minds, and that is that the shares have passed into the hands of those who would be quite qualified to bear the burden of this outlay into the hands of those who, I am afraid, would find a depreciation of their property which the debt we would have to incur a very serious affair. Under these circumstances the General Agents have made the following arrangement:—"The concerned in the Luzon Patents in the East will place at the disposal of the General Agents a portion of the purchase price they received from the Company for the patent in the Philippines to the extent of the estimates of cost now prepared of the erection of charcoal appliances at Malabon. Such return of the purchase money to be disposed of at the discretion of the General Agents, and if they so think fit for the purpose of erecting such charcoal appliances at the Company's works at Malabon, or for any other improvement of the Company's property as the General Agents may consider desirable. Gentlemen, these steps, after further examination into the state of affairs at Manila by Mr. Macgregor, will be carried out, if we find them desirable; and I hope the shareholders will in that case consider that the General Agents have discharged all obligations which they can possibly be expected to acknowledge. I shall now be happy to hear any question which any shareholder may have to put regarding the affairs of the Company. If these estimates are correct the shareholders will not have anything to pay for the construction of the charcoal works at Malabon. These estimates cover the cost of the alterations of the machinery, the procuring of the new water supply, and material, and will enable the house to turn out refined sugar to the extent of 10,000 piculs or thereabouts per month."

Nothing could possibly be fairer than this arrangement of the General Agents. The valuable charcoal appliances originally brought out for the old Yengari Refinery are still in Manila and have, we understand, never even been unpacked from the cases. They can, therefore, be erected without any delay, and as they are the latest inventions, if professional opinions may be relied on, they should quickly produce results which will place the Luzon Sugar Refining Company on a firmer basis than it has yet occupied.

It must be gratifying to all who take a true interest in commercial enterprise and the march of progress in the neighbouring empire to know that the Canton-Kowloon telegraph line has at last, after encountering many difficulties, been carried to a successful issue. On the evening of Wednesday the 9th instant, the last of 2562 poles, covering a distance of rather more than 112 miles, was erected at Chin Wan, thus practically completing the electric communication between Canton, the first commercial city of the Chinese Empire, and the great emporium of Hongkong. Owing to the retrograde policy of the Colonial Secretary in refusing to permit the Chinese Company to land the end of their cable on this island, the terminus of the Canton-Kowloon telegraph line will in the meantime be at Chin Wan, where a temporary station is now in course of construction. As soon as the line is ready for the transmission of telegrams from the general public here and in Canton due notice will be given, and steam launches will be employed as the medium of communication between the terminus at this end and the Company's Hongkong office. This arrangement is, of course, merely a temporary one, as it cannot be doubted that the Earl of Derby, who one of the most enlightened statesmen of the age, on having the actual state of affairs properly represented to him, will promptly order the removal of the interdiction which now forbids the connection of the Canton land line with Hongkong by a cable across the Harbour.

We take this opportunity of heartily congratulating the Chinese gentlemen who have supported this project through thick and thin against factious and ungenerous opposition, on having successfully carried out an undertaking which cannot fail to beneficially affect commercial relations between this port, and the large cities in the adjacent province, and which may not only tend to cement the friendly relations between opposing races, but further has every probability of proving the thin end of the wedge which will shortly open out the whole of Southern China to foreign intercourse and trade.

We have no desire so soon after the arrival of our new Governor to subject to adverse criticism any of his public acts; and we therefore refrain for the present at least, from stating our views relating to His Excellency's exceedingly ill advised and most arbitrary action with regard to the poor Chinese hawkers of this Colony. Sir GEORGE BOWEN is a practical man of the world, so he will not take amiss the honest and straightforward advice we offer him. If His Excellency wishes to govern this Colony successfully he

must see for himself as to his peculiar constitution and requirements. To follow the advice—as His Excellency unfortunately appears to have done—in several instances—of such eminent gentlemen as Mr. J. M. PAICE, and we are afraid we must add, Captain W. M. DEANE, simply means plating the foreign and Chinese elements in a direct antagonism which will create difficulties of a most serious nature.

It is stated that a recent act of Governor BOWEN's has placed over three thousand poor Chinese hawkers in this Colony out of employment. These men, by this official attempt to make the Chinese city of Hongkong a sort of second rate Bond Street, are placed between two alternatives—starvation or plunder. We speak plainly so that His Excellency cannot hereafter say that he acted in ignorance of the probable consequences. On Sunday last, but for the influence of the leading Chinese, the half of this city would have been in ruins before the soldiers or police could have prevented it. The riot would have been quelled, but at a cost of hundreds of lives. A placard has been posted in public places throughout this colony announcing that a general rising against the arbitrary measures of the new Governor will take place tomorrow. This may or may not take place; but if it does, blood will undoubtedly be shed, and the responsibility is Sir GEORGE BOWEN'S. We refrain from further criticising either His Excellency's crusade against a respectable although humble class, or the disaffection his action has created; but respectfully solicit consideration for the following statement of the questions at issue, which we have received from one of the most respected and influential Chinese residents in this colony.

The recent action of the police department in bounding down the unlicensed hawkers so soon after the arrival of Sir George Bowen, has caused a general idea to be prevalent amongst a numerous section of the Chinese community that our present governor is averse to any but well-to-do Chinese living here, and that it was by his orders that the machinery of the law was set in motion to crush that harmless traffic by which a large number of men were enabled to make an honest livelihood by hawking their produce from place to place and supplying the workers employed in the various industries of the colony with refreshments suitable to the purchaser and vendor. A deal has been written respecting these so-called obstructions but I have never been able to see that the hawkers do much in the obstruction line with their moveable shops, baskets, and other paraphernalia on which they expose their wares; nor yet am I aware that the native needlemaker with her three-legged stool is much of an obstruction or nuisance, as she rarely intrudes herself on the delicate presence of the white race resident here, who alone are making any complaint about these so-called nuisances. If only on the live and let live principle, these poor creatures have some right to be allowed to follow their honest callings, but there is a much more vital point than that, from which the question of itinerant hawking must be examined. It would be an utter impossibility to rigidly apply English customs to the working classes here for reasons which must be patent to all reasoning men who have given the matter a thought. Throughout Great Britain the following rules may be said to hold good:—A workman goes to work at 6 a.m.; at nine o'clock he leaves work and goes home to breakfast; all work, as a rule, being stopped between nine and ten o'clock and again during the dinner hour from two till three, and generally speaking being concluded for the night at 6 p.m. The British workman, whether married or single, does not take his food like a Chinese workman, who is content to eat all he lives here feeds his whole family, although they may live (asleep) in different districts of the town. The regular meals of a working Chinaman are augmented by slight "refreshers" at various hours of the day, which are regulated by the work he does. The numerous members of the coolie class, without whom we could not carry on our commerce here, may be employed at six or more different places of work within the space of a week. The coolie, as a rule, has no home beyond the sleeping house to go to, and none to prepare his food except the itinerant hawkers who are able to supply at a low rate the wherewithal to keep the flesh and bone of the poorly paid coolie together. Do away with the hawkers who abound all over the town, more especially where any extensive works are being carried on, and you take away from the coolies the only chance they have of keeping body and soul together as their scanty wages do not allow of their losing time to leave off work and go to the chow-chow shop, even if they could afford to go there to their meals, which it is well known they cannot do. Take away the hawkers and the coolie is unable to live by working; he will leave off earning his living honestly and will try to live in some other fashion. The coolie being a scarce commodity in the market, other trades are affected and the value of the order of trade is more dependent on cheap manual labor in this colony, the coolie class must be in request, and enable the coolie to live, the itinerant hawker is a necessity, and the sooner we come to that conclusion, the sooner will things quieten down amongst the poorer classes of this community, who if dealt with reasonably are very law abiding and fairly honest and driven by hard measures to desperate measures. On Sunday last, about 10,000 Chinese hawkers, principally of the hawk class, called at the Tung Wa Hospital and demanded to know why the management of that institution, whom they look upon as their chiefs, allowed them to be deprived of their means of making an honest living, imputing blame to the Governor or his advisers for trying to sweep away a system that has worked fairly well from the time the British first established themselves on this island. The working men, finding their numerous depositions were quite orderly in their behavior at first, and simply stated their wants. They wished to be shown how they could obtain food for themselves and families if they were not allowed to work, and finally spoke of resorting to desperate measures if oppressed by stringent regulations. After bewailing the want of interest taken in their welfare by their chiefs and protectors, the Tung Wa Committee then gave that body of Chinese workmen a statement that they had been told before that His Excellency the Governor, the Tung Wa Hospital would soon find itself flying about in small pieces, and that other buildings would share the same fate. On the President of the Tung Wa Committee promising that the matter would be seen to as quickly as possible the crowd very quietly dispersed. I do not profess to be able to adequately suggest a complete remedy for what is undoubtedly a hard law, as this honest and hard working traffic has been everywhere and the ability of Dr. Stewart and Mr. James Russell to deal with the matter and give Sir George Bowen the fullest information on the subject, and I feel that I have

done my duty in bringing the matter before the notice of His Excellency so that he can examine with his own eyes whether these sweeping changes amongst the methods of living of the poorer classes of Chinese are absolutely necessary or even wise when it is taken into consideration that the complaints do not come from Chinese sources and that the alleged obstructions mainly exist in China town where Europeans rarely go.

We are very glad to learn, on official authority which cannot be doubted, that the disaffection amongst the Chinese hawkers of the Colony—alluded to at length in yesterday's issue—is based on a misunderstanding of actual facts in regard to the recent action of the police authorities and the policy of the Government. All public grievances are more or less based on exaggerations, and in dealing with this particular question yesterday, we refrained from committing ourselves to any independent expressions of opinion as to matters of fact, principally because we had grave doubts whether the statement of our Chinese correspondent was not, in several respects, a somewhat highly colored description of the actual state of affairs. It must be frankly admitted that a feeling of disaffection does exist amongst the members of the hawk class, who, from the recent action of the police authorities, are under the impression that the government has determined to "deprive them of their only means of earning an honest livelihood," and it is well within the bounds of probability that these well meaning but ignorant and easily led people might have been unwise enough to have followed up Chinese traditions by assembling in force to assert their assumed grievances—a course which must inevitably have led to a deplorable display of military force and probably to bloodshed. As this journal can justly claim to possess more than a nominal influence over the leaders of our Chinese fellow subjects, we feel assured that a plain statement of the policy of the government towards the itinerant hawk class, and a true record of what has actually been done by the police authorities to put down what, under certain circumstances, is undoubtedly a public nuisance, will restore matters to their normal condition. The Chinese residents of this Colony, one and all, desire to live peaceably and on the most friendly terms with the other nationalities forming our essentially cosmopolitan community. Our Chinese citizens are peaceful, law-abiding, proud of their status as British subjects, and anxious to conform in every possible way to the rules laid down for their government by Her Majesty's representatives. They are, commercially, the life and soul of the colony; they contribute their fair share to its revenue, and only wish to be allowed the usual rights of free citizenship as natives of China in a British Colony. To this they are justly entitled. Nay, more, it would be more than impolitic, it would be absurdly ridiculous, to expect the lower or even the higher classes of Chinese to conform to English social laws and customs, therefore, an intelligent administration should be in a position, whilst advocating gradual progress, to meet the difficulties of the position by sensible concessions, conformable to the peculiar manners, prejudices and customs of the people. Municipal regulations which will admirably govern an English city, may, from various circumstances that require no explanation, prove altogether inadequate, to meet the peculiar exigencies of a race like the Chinese, and it would admittedly be worse than folly to attempt by force to thrust upon these barbarians, as some of us in our transcendent wisdom are pleased to call the Chinese, oppressive measures, which cannot possibly bring benefit to the colony, and which must inevitably operate harshly upon and create dissension amongst a respectable class of hard working people, who only require to be sensibly and intelligently handled to make them useful, peaceful and law-abiding subjects.

It has been currently rumoured and believed throughout the colony that no fewer than 10,000 itinerant hawkers have lately been marshalled before the police magistrates and fined or imprisoned for plying their calling in violation of the laws of the colony. This reported wholesale police raid on these itinerants is, we are pleased to state, utterly without foundation. A reference to the records of the police court will show that from April 7th to May 19th the total number of hawkers brought before the magistrates amounted only to 43—an average of a little over one per day—and out of that number, 30 were charged with carrying on their business in and obstructing the traffic of Queen's Road Central. This we need scarcely say, puts quite a different complexion on the affair. We are prepared now, at any other time, to maintain and uphold the rights and interests of every section of the community so long as such rights and interests are founded on reason and common sense, but we cannot conceive what can be fairly regarded in the light of a public nuisance. The itinerant hawkers must plainly understand that, although they will be permitted to pursue their customary avocations in the Chinese portions of the city without restraint under no circumstances can the practice of blockading Queen's Road Central and obstructing traffic in the distinctly European portions of the city be tolerated. Within reasonable limits, in deference to the peculiar prejudices of the Chinese, the Government will not attempt to prevent the hawkers from earning an honest livelihood. But on principle will these itinerant hawkers be allowed to erect stalls in our principal thoroughfares, and thereby impede traffic to the inconvenience of shopkeepers, merchants, and the European commercial community generally?

Nothing can be fairer than this, and we therefore look to the Committee of the Tung Wa Hospital, who are the recognized leaders of the Chinese, to represent the disaffected portion of their community, the class of hawkers, and to further ask them to show to the magistrates men who indulged in the reprehensible

SHANGHAI SPRING RACES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STEWARDS.—H. De C. Forbes, Esq., J. M. Ringer, Esq., W. Patterson, Esq., A. McLeod, Esq., St. C. Michaelson, Esq., A. Myburgh, Esq., E. O. Arbuthnot, Esq.

FOURTH DAY—SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 1883.

Our "Off-Day's" racing, which had to be postponed on account of the heavy rains, came off to-day under most favorable circumstances, the weather being perfect and the course in good going order. The attendance both of foreign and Chinese was very large, and all seemed to enjoy the day's sport immensely. Picaroon opened the programme by winning the half mile race in a common canter from a good field, but later on in running for the Bookmakers' Cup, a one mile race, he was easily defeated by Muffi, a very second class griffin. Picaroon is a fine slashing pony, and of excellent class, for although he cannot at present get beyond half a mile in good company he is only five years old, and so promising that I fully expect to see him stretch the necks of such flyers as Wild Dash, Precursor, and First Comet a couple of seasons hence, if he is not raced to a standstill out of his distance, and made a wretched cur by injudicious training. Chatterbox, contrary to general expectation, suffered defeat in the Grand National Steeplechase, the distance being 1 mile 1 furlong, beyond the tether of Mr. Mat. Dawson's handsome grey. Earl Eric, admirably ridden by Mr. Nicholson, cut out the work at such a pace that he had his field beaten a long way from home. Astrologer was another animal greatly fancied for the Grand National; but although he managed to negotiate the course he was never in the hunt with Earl Eric and Chatterbox, and finished a bad fourth. The Torpedo Cup, presented by Mr. St. Andrew, was won in a great surprise. Black Diamond and Sulla coupled were freely backed against the field, but the little thought of Safety galloped his opponents to a complete standstill, and came in full of running in a shade over 3-18—a performance which stamps the winner a good pony when properly ridden. The Bookmakers' Cup had better be left alone. How a rank duffer like Muffi managed to beat Second Violin at a mile nobody can understand, and his time—2:11—only makes matters more difficult to fathom. Nobody believes that on his merits the handsome bay—who showed pretty good form in the Consolation—could possibly play "second fiddle" to a brute like Muffi! On this occasion the instrument must have been out of tune somehow. The race for the Mafoos' Champions was a very interesting one, old Jolly Friar eventually winning easily from Allegro, Ambassador and a good field. The following are the particulars of the various events:—

HALF-MILE RACE, for all China Ponies that have run in Shanghai; a Sweepstakes of \$5 each; weight, 125 lbs.; 7 furlongs. Starters, 10. Mr. Jolly Friar, 1st; Mr. Sullivan, 2nd; Mr. Bidwell, 3rd; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 4th; Mr. Nicholson, 5th; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 6th; Mr. Rugg, 7th; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 8th; Mr. Nicholson, 9th; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 10th; Mr. Rugg, 11th; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 12th; Mr. Nicholson, 13th; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 14th; Mr. Rugg, 15th; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 16th; Mr. Nicholson, 17th; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 18th; Mr. Rugg, 19th; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 20th; Mr. Nicholson, 21st; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 22nd; Mr. Rugg, 23rd; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 24th; Mr. Nicholson, 25th; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 26th; Mr. Rugg, 27th; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 28th; Mr. Nicholson, 29th; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 30th; Mr. Rugg, 31st; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 32nd; Mr. Nicholson, 33rd; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 34th; Mr. Rugg, 35th; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 36th; Mr. Nicholson, 37th; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 38th; Mr. Rugg, 39th; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 40th; Mr. Nicholson, 41st; Mr. Tell's Lucifer, 42nd; Mr. Rugg, 43rd; Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 44th; 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